

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claim in the application.

Claim 1 (original): An apparatus for closing an arterial opening in an arterial wall while permitting post operative blood flow through the artery, which comprises:

a housing having proximal and distal ends, and defining a longitudinal axis;

first and second arterial tissue everting members mounted adjacent the distal end of the housing, the first and second arterial tissue everting members being dimensioned for at least partially positioning within the arterial access opening in the arterial wall, the first and second arterial tissue everting members being deployable in at least a radial outward direction relative to the longitudinal axis of the housing to engage respective opposed arterial tissue portions on opposed sides of the opening and move the tissue arterial portions to an everted condition thereof;

first and second jaw members mounted adjacent the first and second tissue engaging members, the first and second jaw members adapted for relative movement between an open position to facilitate positioning about the arterial tissue portions in the everted condition and a closed position to at least partially draw the arterial tissue portions together to an at least partial approximated condition; and

an electrode associated with at least one of the first and second jaw members and arranged to contact the respective arterial tissue portions, the electrode being adapted to be connected to a radiofrequency energy source whereby energy is transmitted through the electrode to thermally fuse the arterial tissue positions between the first and second jaw members to substantially close the arterial access opening.

Claims 2-9 (canceled)